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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, thank You for Your blessing. It gives us approbation, affirmation, a feeling of value, a sense of destiny, and an assurance of Your power. You have chosen, cherished, and called us to be Your sons and daughters. In Your providential planning You have placed each of us where we are and given us special assignments. Each of us has unique orders of the work we are to do. You provide power to help us, for You have ordained that if we do not do the work You have given us to do, it will not be done. So we report for duty with the delight that we have been blessed to be a blessing.

Help us to bless the people of our lives with a reminder of how much they mean to us. Heal our lock-jaw so we can articulate our appreciation of the gift each person is to us. May we be used by You to fill the blessing-shaped void inside of everyone needing to be filled by words of encouragement.

We will live this day only once. Before it is gone, may we bless all the people we can, in every way we can, with all the love we can. Help us not to waste today in selfish neglect of the people You have given us. Today is a day to receive and give Your blessing. In Your generous, giving, and forgiving name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHUCK HAGEL, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). The acting majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business throughout most of the day. The Senate may also resume debate on the motion to proceed to the H-1B visa bill. As a reminder, the first vote of next week is scheduled to occur at 4:50 p.m. on Monday, September 25. The vote is on final passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. Also next week, the Senate will continue consideration of the H-1B visa bill.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Nebraska, Mr. HAGEL, be recognized for the purposes of morning business for up to 30 minutes at 11 a.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted

to proceed for up to 12 minutes to introduce legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS and Mr. CLELAND pertaining to the introduction of S. 3096 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

### INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, one thing behind the growth of the American economy is our educational system. There is good news and bad news about our educational system today.

In a climate that currently seems filled with more dissent than accord, I think we can at least agree that elected officials on both sides of the aisle are in lockstep with the American people on the importance of education: It is a priority so critical that it should be at the top of our national agenda. This is a view very similar to the opinion held by President Lincoln almost 150 years ago. "Upon the subject of education," Lincoln said, "not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we, as a people, can be engaged in."

Education's priority having been espoused by both sides during this Congress, it is profoundly disappointing that S. 2, the critically important legislation to reauthorize the landmark Elementary and Education Act, appears to be dead for this year. What a shame. It is apparent from the earlier floor debate on S. 2 that agreement breaks down on the condition of America's educational system today and on the course we should pursue to improve our schools.

Seventeen years ago our country was rocked by the publication of "A Nation at Risk." The findings were devastating: Our educational system was

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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